



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
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May 27, 2011

Name
Address
Address
City, State, Zip

Dear (name of person with DD):

I want to take this opportunity to update you about the changes the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals ("BHDDH") is making to the way in which we provide services to adults with developmental disabilities. Project Sustainability is an initiative that the Department has been working on for nearly two years to enable participants and their families to have more control over and access to the development and delivery of appropriate community based supports and services. Throughout this process of change, BHDDH has remained true to its stated mission and kept the following ideals in the forefront of all considerations:

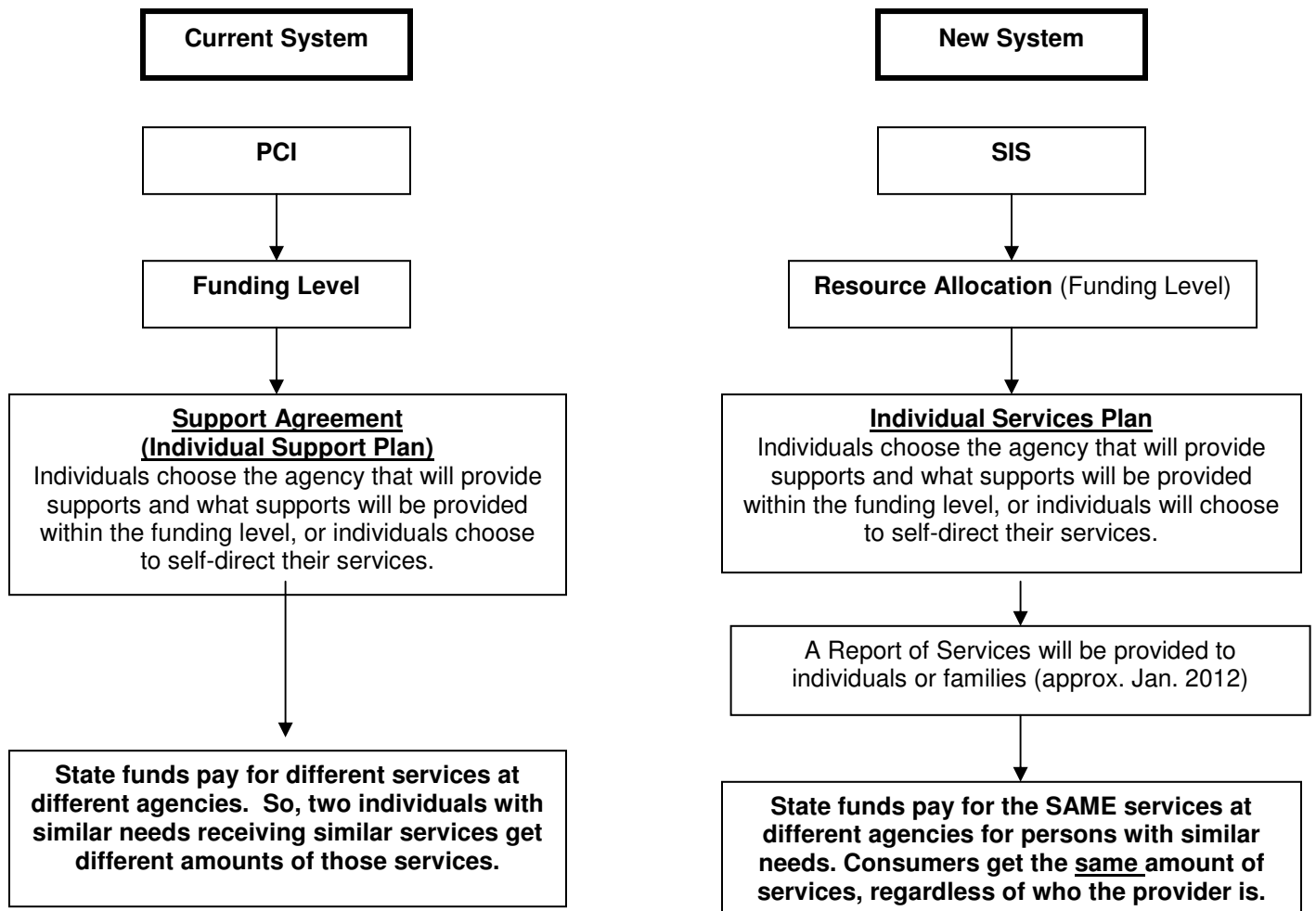
- A self directed system that supports people living in the community in charge of their lives;
- A system that allows individuals to spend resources with more flexibility than today;
- A system that aligns resources to individual needs – people receive the services they need to live in the community with dignity, no more, no less;
- A system that funds equally for the same service to those that deliver the service as a matter of fairness for both providers and for the individuals we serve. This will allow us to sustain our system of care.
- A system that enables individuals to receive the services from whom they want and from where they want. Restructuring the system so as to allow the individuals we serve to make their resources go further.
- A system where information is transparent to those receiving community supports and services, their families, providers, the federal government, the legislature and our Governor; and
- A system that is sustainable.

As we approach the implementation of Project Sustainability on July 1, 2011, it is important that you know that there should not be any impact on the scope of services that you are currently receiving. The rates that are being paid to providers will change for services beginning in May 2011. Providers will also be billing BHDDH in a new and improved manner beginning in July 2011. But these changes should not impact your choice or access to services. Among the reasons for the billing changes is to provide more accountability to you, your family, BHDDH, the RI Legislature and the federal government as to how an individual's funded resource allocation is utilized.

There are two changes to the process that will be significant to you. The first is that we will be changing our assessment tool beginning in July 2011, from the Personal Capacities Inventory to the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS). The SIS is a tool that has been used in over fourteen (14) States and sixteen (16) countries. The SIS accurately assesses the needs of the individual so that the appropriate resources allocation can be provided. The second change is that in early 2012, you will begin to receive a report that shows the services that have been provided to you compared to the services authorized. The report will be especially beneficial for those of you who wish to be more active in the development and implementation of your individualized service plan. This will help with self-advocacy, person centered planning and self-direction.

To further explain project sustainability and these changes, below is a chart that compares the new process with the current process.

What's really changing?



If you have any questions regarding Project Sustainability and the new process, please feel free to attend one of the following family meetings. A complete list with addresses is on our website at www.bhddh.ri.gov.

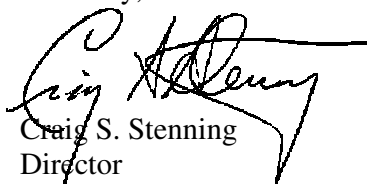
June 15, 5:00 – 7:00 Independence Square, Pawtucket

June 20, 6:00 – 8:00 Woonsocket Harris Public Library

June 22, 5:00 – 7:00 Café Chino, Independence Square, Kingston

Many thanks to all of you who participated in the family and advocates workgroups and/or previous family meetings. We will continue to work together to ensure that the community based supports services we provide to adults with Developmental Disabilities continue to be quality based and sustainable.

Sincerely,


Craig S. Stenning
Director